

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a pneumatic tire, comprising:
supporting both bead portions of a green tire by a pair of holders to which
opposite axial ends of a bladder are tightly attached separately from ~~the~~ a vulcanizer;
joining the pair of holders to each other and supplying a liquid into the bladder to
preliminarily inflate the bladder ~~within and the green tire;~~ tire into a torroidal shape;
transferring the preliminarily inflated bladder and green tire into ~~a~~ the vulcanizer,
together with the ~~holders and the preliminarily inflated bladder, and then~~ holders, after the
preliminary inflation;
_____ supplying a heat medium into the bladder after transfer to the vulcanizer to
thereby vulcanize the green tire and form a vulcanized tire;
transferring the vulcanized tire, together with the holders and the bladder, from
the vulcanizer to a ~~post-cure inflator, and~~ inflator;
_____ attaching ~~said the~~ holders to a rotary shaft of ~~said the~~ post-cure inflator;
rotating the rotary shaft of the post-cure inflator to thereby cool the vulcanized
tire; and
accelerating cooling of the vulcanized tire, by supplying a low-temperature liquid
into the bladder.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid ~~to be~~
supplied into the bladder for ~~its~~ preliminary inflation is a high-temperature liquid for
preheating the bladder and green tire prior to transfer into the vulcanizer.

3.-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing a pneumatic tire, comprising:

a preprocessing machine comprised of (i) joining means for mutually joining a pair of holders supporting both bead portions of a green tire, respectively, and (ii) preliminary inflating means for supplying a liquid into a bladder having opposite axial ends tightly attached to the holders, respectively, to preliminarily inflate the bladder ~~within the and~~ green tire; tire into a torroidal shape;

a vulcanizer for supplying a heat medium into the bladder ~~within the and~~ green tire, to thereby vulcanize the green tire and form a vulcanized tire;

transfer means for transferring the preliminarily inflated bladder and green tire ~~tire~~, together with ~~said holders and the preliminarily inflated bladder,~~ the holders, from the preprocessing machine to the vulcanizer;

means for circulating ~~the liquid~~ through the bladder; and

means for heating and/or cooling the liquid as the liquid is circulated through the bladder.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the means for heating and/or cooling the liquid is a heater.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the means for heating and/or cooling the liquid is a heat exchanger.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing a pneumatic tire, comprising:
a preprocessing machine comprised of (i) joining means for mutually joining a pair of holders supporting both bead portions of a green tire, respectively, and (ii) preliminary inflating means for supplying a liquid into a bladder having opposite axial ends tightly attached to the holders, respectively, to preliminarily inflate the bladder ~~within the and~~ green tire; tire into a torroidal shape;

a vulcanizer that supplies a heat medium into the bladder ~~within the and~~ green tire, to thereby vulcanize the green tire and form a vulcanized tire;

a first transfer device that transfers the preliminarily inflated bladder and green tire, together with said ~~holders and the preliminarily inflated bladder,~~the holders, from the preprocessing machine to the ~~vulcanizer;~~ vulcanizer; and

~~_____ a second transfer device~~ that transfers the vulcanized tire, together with said ~~the~~ holders and the bladder, from the vulcanizer to a post-cure inflator, and is usable to attach ~~attaching said the~~ holders to a rotary shaft of said ~~the~~ post-cure inflator;

a rotator that rotates the rotary shaft of the post-cure inflator to thereby cool the vulcanized tire; ~~and~~

a cooling acceleration system that accelerates cooling of the vulcanized tire by supplying a low-temperature liquid to the ~~bladder;~~ bladder; and

_____ a second transfer device that transfers the cooled vulcanized tire, together with the holders and the bladder, from the post-cure inflator to the preprocessing machine.